

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: LACHENMEIER, Per et al. Conf.:
Appl. No.: NEW Group:
Filed: August 9, 2001 Examiner:
For: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PACKAGING
OBJECTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

August 9, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said pulling-off speed of said foil hood or band stock, respectively, during pulling-over of said foil hood is lower than the speed of the essentially vertical movement of said lifting frame.

5. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said reefing or pulling-off, respectively, of said foil hood or band stock, respectively, during reefing and/or tentering, respectively, and/or pulling-off of said foil hood during pulling-over is effected by the movement of said rolls, wherein the outer surfaces of said rolls shift said foil hood pushed onto said gripper means.

6. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said foil hood or band stock, respectively, is held on said gripper means during the pulling-over end phase.

7. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said holding of said foil hood or band stock, respectively, is effected by means of said rolls which press said foil hood against said gripper means.

11. (Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 9, wherein said control means control the pulling-off speed of said foil hood or band stock, respectively, such that during the essentially horizontal movement of said gripper means it is lower than the speed of the movement of said gripper means and/or that during the essentially vertical movement of said lifting frame it is lower than the speed of the movement of said lifting frame.

12. (Amended) The apparatus as defined in claims 8, wherein each reefing means comprises at least one roll which can be brought into contact with said lifting frame and which can roll said foil hood or band stock, respectively, on said respectively gripper means or roll it down therefrom, respectively.

13. (Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein said reefing means comprises a holding means for holding said foil hood or band stock, respectively, on said respective gripper means in the pulling-over end phase.

14. The apparatus as defined in claim 13, wherein said holding means comprises the at least one roll which presses said foil hood or band stock, respectively, against said gripper means in the pulling-over end phase.

REMARKS

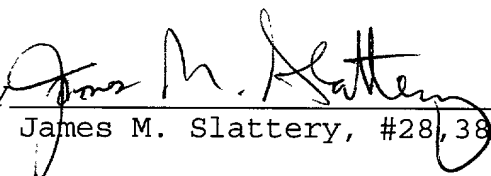
The claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

(Rev. 03/27/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) The method as defined in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said pulling-off speed of said foil hood or band stock, respectively, during pulling-over of said foil hood is lower than the speed of the essentially vertical movement of said lifting frame.

5. (Amended) The method as defined in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said reefing or pulling-off, respectively, of said foil hood or band stock, respectively, during reefing and/or tenting, respectively, and/or pulling-off of said foil hood during pulling-over is effected by the movement of said rolls, wherein the outer surfaces of said rolls shift said foil hood pushed onto said gripper means.

6. (Amended) The method as defined in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said foil hood or band stock, respectively, is held on said gripper means during the pulling-over end phase.

7. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 6 [in combination with claim 5], wherein said holding of said foil hood or band stock, respectively, is effected by means of said rolls which press said foil hood against said gripper means.

11. (Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 9 [or 10], wherein said control means control the pulling-off speed of said foil hood or band stock, respectively, such that during the essentially horizontal movement of said gripper means it is lower than the speed of the movement of said gripper means and/or that during the essentially vertical movement of said lifting frame it is lower than the speed of the movement of said lifting frame.

12. (Amended) The apparatus as defined in [one of claims 8 to 11] claims 8 , wherein each reefing means comprises at least one roll which can be brought into contact with said lifting frame and which can roll said foil hood or band stock, respectively, on said respectively gripper means or roll it down therefrom, respectively.

13. (Amended) The apparatus as defined in [one of the claims 8 to 12] claim 12, wherein said reefing means comprises a holding

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